

Message Text

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SUBJ: PROCEDURES FOR INTERCEPTION OF AIRCRAFT

CSAF FOR COL DORSEY (AFXOO)

REF: A. STATE 20087 (NOTAL)

B. SECRETARY CEAC LTR LK(75)16 DTD JAN 17, 1975 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. WASHINGTON, NOTING SHORT TIME AVAILABLE, QUESTIONED (REF A) THE VALUE OF US RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN AIRSPACE COORDINATION (CEAC) REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) REVISED PROCEDURES FOR INTERCEPTION OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT. ICAO WILL CONSIDER THESE PROCEDURES AT ITS FEBRUARY 4, 1975 MEETING. MISSION BELIEVES, BASED ON CONTACT WITH CEAC SECRETARIAT, US SHOULD RESPOND AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) IS REVISING PROCEDURES FOR INTERCEPTION OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT. AT THE NOVEMBER 26, 1974 COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN AIRSPACE COORDINATION (CEAC) MEETING THE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE (N.B. OLSEN) INDICATED THAT THESE REVISED ICAO PROCEDURES DIFFERED FROM THOSE OF NATO. AT THIS MEETING CEAC CHAIRMAN (AIR COMMODORE TEDDER, UKAF) PROPOSED THAT A WORKING GROUP OF

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM CEAC, ICAO, INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA), AND THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES MEET IN EARLY 1975 TO STUDY THE PROBLEM IN ORDER TO HARMONIZE CIVIL AIRCRAFT INTERCEPTION PROCEDURES.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ICAO EUROPEAN OFFICER, ON JANUARY 9, 1975 ADVISED THE CEAC SECRETARIAT THAT THE ICAO COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE REVISED ICAO PROCEDURES AT ITS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1975.

4. THE ONLY MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PROPOSED ICAO PROCEDURES AND CURRENT NATO PROCEDURES CONCERNS THE VISUAL INTERCEPTION SIGNALS. THE PROPOSED APPLICABILITY DATE OF THE NEW PROCEDURES FOR ICAO MEMBER STATES IS OCTOBER 9, 1975.

5. SINCE THE REVISED ICAO PROCEDURES APPLY WORLD-WIDE, THE CEAC BELIEVES NATO SHOULD, IN THE INTEREST OF AIR SAFETY, CONSIDER MODIFYING THE CURRENT NATO PROCEDURES (MC-66/1 (REVISED) (FINAL) SEPTEMBER 23, 1960) TO CONFORM TO THOSE OF ICAO. THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE MUST APPROVE CHANGES TO THE STANDARD NATO INTERCEPT PROCEDURES.

6. BECAUSE ICAO SCHEDULED A MEETING FEBRUARY 4, 1975 TO DISCUSS THE REVISED INTERCEPTION PROCEDURES, THE CEAC CHAIRMAN, RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WAS NO TIME TO CONVENE A SEPARATE WORKING GROUP TO HARMONIZE AIR INTERCEPTION PROCEDURES, WITHDREW HIS SUGGESTION TO FORM SUCH A GROUP. INSTEAD, THE CEAC SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED A LETTER (REF B.) REQUESTING THAT CIVIL AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES OF CEAC FORWARD COORDINATED NATIONAL COMMENTS ON ICAO PROCEDURES SO THAT HE COULD SUBMIT THEM TO THE NATO INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE. COORDINATED NATIONAL COMMENTS WILL ASSIST THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE WHETHER NATO SHOULD MODIFY THE NATO INTERCEPTION PROCEDURES FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT TO CONFORM TO THOSE OF ICAO.

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7. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION BELIEVES COORDINATED NATIONAL COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ICAO STANDARDS ARE STILL REQUIRED AND THAT US SHOULD RESPOND AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE TO THE REQUEST OF REFERENCE A.
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